POLLUTION CHOICE SIMPLE:

By 1990, Wear Mask or Die

By EDMUND PINTO

SCOTIA, N.Y. (AP) — The way some scientists see it, the choice will be simple:

Wear a special breathing mask or die from pollution

That's the prospect for life in the Northern Hemisphere by 1990 if the present pollution rate continues, according to scientists at the Atmospheric Sciences Research Centre.

Here is their present view of the 1980s.

In 1980, 10,000 people will die in one metropolitan area of the United States, which will be inundated by a cloud of pollution;

In 10 to 15 years, every man, woman and child in the hemisphere will have to wear a breathing helmet to survive outdoors. Streets, for the most part, will be deserted;

Most animals and much plant life will be killed off;

In 20 years, man will live in domed cities

Even now, the scientists say, there is no more clean air left in the United States.

A six-year search was conducted by members of the research centre, part of the state university system.

"We have no solution If we had a solution we wouldn't be fooling around with this stuff," said Alfred Hulstrunk, 40, a biologist who is assistant director of the centre which has 20 research scientists at the centre.

Air pollution, he says, has been increasing at a rate far greater than the air is able to cleanse itself.

The last vestiges of clean air the centre noted in the United States was near Flagstaff, Ariz., but it disappeared six years ago when, Hulstrunk said, air pollution from the California coast reached the northern Arizona city

"We ran out of clean air, so to speak. For six years we have been looking for some in the remotest parts of the United States."

He defines air pollution as at least 2,000 particles of pollution in a section of air half the size of a sugar cube Most metropolitan areas today average 15,000 particles

Their number is growing at the steady rate of 1,500 a year

Hulstrunk says indications are the pollution level will be deadly for humans at 35,000 particles.

At the fatal point, Hulstrunk says, the only solution now apparent will be doomed cities

"We can put on a semi-space suit and roam around a deserted and dead country. The people will be inside and all living things outside will be dead. Technology will have taken over completely"

Hulstrunk believes the solution will be found, that somehow, someway, man will prevail

But for the near future, "we can see no improvement. We still see degradation ahead for our entire environment."

Air pollution's killing agent is a microscopic particle of matter that produces a violent reaction in a test tube, Hulstrunk said

When the particles land on a house or a car they eat minuscule holes in their paint.

In the concentrated quantities of the next decade and later, when inhaled into a lung, he says, they will cause malignant tumors and kill.

The problems of overcoming air pollution are compounded by attempts to find answers to other seemingly unanswerable challenges to society.

For instance he said, California has allowed the use on an experimental basis of plastic beer containers that can be burned instead of just disfornia has allowed the use on disposal.

Tobacco Growers Bring Suits

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — Kentucky's burley tobacco growers moved against anti-smoking campaigners Friday

They are asking a federal court to forbid televised advertisements that say "cigarettes will kill people who smoke them."

Defendants in the suit are the three major U S. networks — ABC. CBS and NBC

In addition, lawyers for the burley growers said they are preparing a suit asking damages for anti-smoking commercials aired by the networks.

Spokesmen for the three networks all said they would have no comment until company officials have seen the papers in the case.

WASHINGTON (AP) — James Duff, 86, former Pennsylvania governor and U.S. senator, died today after collapsing at Washington National Airport.

CP Wirephoto

DOGPOWER IS OUT, flying is in for three Eskimos being trained at Borden, Ont., to fly helicopters in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories Capt. Herbert Osborne, left, watches as Michael Kusugak takes controls of training model at Canadian Forces Base. Moses Tooktoo and Thomas Suluk await turn.

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HE DOES OKAY WITHOUT LEGS

LAND'S END, England (AP) — Norman Croucher, 29-year-old social worker with two artificial legs, arrived here today after a 90-mile walk from the top to the bottom of Britain.

"It's Mont Blanc next," he said. "I want to climb to the top . . . if I can find anyone game enough to tackle it with a man on tin legs."

Croucher lost both legs when he fell under a train eight years ago.

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Army Probes Cannon Goof

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP) — The British army ordered an urgent inquiry today into a century-old tradition that misfired — the one o'clock gun that went off three minutes early.

The cannon is fired every day from the ramparts of Edinburgh's towering castle.

In recent years it has been fired automatically and this was the first time in memory that the control clock ran fast.

The gun's original purpose was to help people set their clocks.

Nowadays it helps distinguish the natives from the tourists.

The natives don't bat an eyelid when it fires. The unsuspecting tourists almost jump out of their kilts.

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Public Service Pensions Up as Much as 42 Pct.

By KEVIN DOYLE

OTTAWA (CP) — The government announced Friday it will introduce legislation early in 1970 authorizing public service pension increases ranging from two to 42 per cent.

The Commons announcement, by Treasury Board president C. M. Drury, came shortly before Parliament adjourned for a three-week Christmas recess.

2 PCT. MINIMUM

For those who retired in 1952 or earlier, the increase will be 42 per cent. Drury told the Commons. Those retiring this year would receive two per cent.

The increases are to take effect April 1 1970.

In some sections of the public service, such as the armed forces and RCMP, where employees retire at an earlier age than most, the increases would be effective from the date of the employee's 60th birthday.

An added aspect of the announcement is the government's plan, to take effect in 1971, of granting yearly pension increases based on the percentage change in the Canada Pension Plan index provided the increase does not exceed two per cent.

Drury said the legislation will be introduced in the Commons immediately after the Christmas recess ending Monday, Jan. 12. Further details would be available then, he said.

The announcement followed an "intensive study" of the Public Service Superannuation Act by a special advisory group.

The committee concluded that such a plan financed by equal contributions of the government and employees is feasible as a continuing method of updating pensions.

Stanley Knowles (NDP-Winnipeg North Centre), a persistent advocate of pension increases, told the Commons he is gratified by the government's decision.

Opposition Leader Robert Stanfield said "some people will really believe there's a Santa Claus now."

But he said there had been an "unconscionable delay" in the development of a new pension plan.

The main public service pension legislation is the Superannuation Act. When statistics were last made public, they showed some 31,000 retired employees, some 15,000 widows and about 3,200 dependent children drawing pensions under the act.

An employee who puts in at least 35 years service receives a pension equal to 70 per cent of his salary calculated on his earnings during his final six years of work. A widow gets half of this, plus additional moneys for school-age children.

A parliamentary committee recommended pension increases about three years ago but various government economy drives stalled the move.

POPE SPEAKS AFTER MASS

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Paul is to deliver his traditional message to the world on Christmas Day, after celebrating Mass in St. Peter's Basilica.

He will speak to the crowd in St. Peter's Square. In the past the message was usually recorded and broadcast a few days before Christmas.

Vatican observers said the Pope wanted to give more emphasis this year to the importance of Christmas Day itself. Earlier in the day he will visit one of Rome's poorest suburbs.

VATICAN CITY (UPI) — Pope Paul received in private audience today Bishop Guy Belanger of Valleyfield, Que.

Nixon Has Secret Meet With Abrams

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gen. Creighton Abrams, U.S. commander in Vietnam, conferred secretly with President Richard Nixon for about an hour Friday, the White House belatedly disclosed today.

Press secretary Ronald Ziegler said Abrams was not summoned back to the United States to conduct official business but rather that Secretary of Defence Melvin Laird had authorized his return for a few days because of "a personal family matter."

Sources later reported that Abrams was here to attend the wedding of a son this weekend at West Point.

Ziegler said that while Abrams was in Washington, he met Laird and then with Nixon.

All he would say about the Nixon-Abrams conversation was that they talked about the current Vietnam situation and General Abrams gave him an updated report."

There have been recurrent reports in recent months that Abrams might be preparing to leave his post in South Vietnam.

"There is absolutely no truth to it," Ziegler said.

UNITY AGAINST ISRAEL

Arab Heads Prepare Talks

RABAT, Morocco (CP) — Kings and presidents of 11 Arab states and representatives of three others and of Palestinian Arab refugee groups meet Sunday to unify their strategy against Israel.

The talks were to have begun today but the opening was postponed, officially because of late arrivals and the need of some delegations for rest after long flights.

But it is understood that another purpose of the postponement was to give more time for bilateral and multilateral consultations between delegations.

Informants said guerrilla chieftain Yasser Arafat, whose Palestinian raiders have captured the imagination of the Arab world, will try to convince the Arab leaders to abandon efforts for a political settlement with Israel.

The sources said however, there are moderate Arab leaders who still believe a negotiated settlement is possible and they will try to win over those who advocate force.

The meeting is the fifth Arab summit and the first since August, 1967, in Khartoum after Israel's victory over Egypt, Jordan and Syria.

It was called to co-ordinate the Arab's military, financial and political efforts against the Jewish state.

The big two of the Arab world, President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt and King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, are expected to set the tone in the discussions.

Nasser is considered a progressive in Arab politics and Faisal a conservative and the two have disagreed before.

They met in Cairo Thursday and Friday before coming to Rabat to work out an understanding on the summit meeting.

Little of what is decided at the meeting is expected to be made public. If things go according to schedule, a final communique will be issued Monday.

The only nations not represented by heads of state are Syria, Iraq and Tunisia.

Syria and Iraq are ruled by rival factions of the Baath Socialist party, so each sent cabinet ministers. President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia is ill and sent a representative.

Blizzards Hit Britain

LONDON (Reuters) — Blizzards swept most parts of Britain Friday and heavy snowfalls blocked roads in many parts of the country.

Worst-hit were Scotland, Wales and the north of England.

Further widespread snowfalls were forecast.

Conditions in Scotland were described as the worst this winter and Prince Philip, on his way to Balmoral Castle, was forced to make a detour when snow plows were unable to clear the road.

The adverse weather plus a wave of influenza disrupted Britain's soccer schedule.

Firemen Injured In Tanker Blaze

TREMLEY POINT, N.J. (AP) — Six firemen received minor burns today fighting a blaze in the engine room of a docked 196-foot tanker with 8,000 barrels of gas and oil on board, police reported.

The crew of the Princess Bay was evacuated to shore after the fire was discovered.

Seven hours later about 20 firemen, supported by three fireboats from the Coast Guard and Staten Island, battled the fire.

EAST PAKISTAN TROOPS FIRE INTO BENGAL

CALCUTTA (Reuters)—East Pakistan troops fired across the border into Indian territory in West Bengal today and the firing is still going on, an Indian spokesman said.

The Indian border security forces spokesman said the firing began at 2:40 a.m. (Vancouver time) at Bamangola in the Malda district of West Bengal.

U.S. Envoy 'Wants Out'

NEW YORK (AP) — CBS News says the White House has agreed to relieve Ambassador to South Vietnam Ellsworth Bunker of his post.

However, State Department and White House spokesmen in Washington said they could not confirm the CBS report.

The CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite quoted White House sources Friday as saying President Richard Nixon has agreed to let Bunker go as soon after the New Year as possible.

The report said the White House has discouraged speculation that Bunker might go to the Paris peace talks to replace former chief negotiator Henry Cabot Lodge.

MANILA (UPI) — Police have seized about four tons of Second World War ammunition illegally recovered from sunken Japanese vessels in southern Philippine waters.

Ladies aid society

These are the men who move the baby grands . . . the ones who carry ten-foot sofas up three flights of narrow stairs . . . the fellows who put a six-foot freezer through a five-foot door.

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